

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing request compatibility in a multicast system, said method comprising:
 - receiving, by a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router, requests for traffic from said group of receivers;
 - determining, by said switch, whether said traffic requests contain incompatible request types;
 - if incompatible request types exist, then separating said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type; and
 - sending requests of different types to said router from distinct addresses.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible request types include a single-source request and an any-source request.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said single-source request comprises an IGMP v3 request.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said older any-source request comprises an IGMP v2 request.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible request types include an include request and an exclude request.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of sending requests of different types to said router from distinct addresses further comprises:

- creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and
- creating a second host identity located at a second MAC address.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising sending requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said a first MAC address, and sending requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC address.

8. An apparatus for providing request compatibility in a multicast system, said apparatus comprising:

- a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router;
- said layer 2 switch configured to:

- receive requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

- determine whether said traffic requests contain incompatible request types;

- separate said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type if incompatible request types exist; and

- send said requests of different types to said router from distinct addresses.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said incompatible request types include a single-source request and an any-source request.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said single-source request comprises an IGMP v3 request.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said older any-source request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said incompatible request types include an include request and an exclude request.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, further configured to create a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and create a second host identity located a second MAC address.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, further configured send requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said a first MAC address, and send requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC address.

15. An apparatus for providing request compatibility in a multicast system, said method comprising:

means for receiving, by a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router, requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

means for determining, by said switch, whether said traffic requests contain incompatible request types;

means for separating said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type if incompatible request types exist; and

means for sending requests of different types to said router from distinct addresses.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said incompatible request types include a single-source request and an any-source request.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said single-source request comprises an IGMP v3 request.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said older any-source request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said incompatible request types include an include request and an exclude request.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and means for creating a second host identity located a second MAC address.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means for sending requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said a first MAC address, and means for sending requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC address.

22. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for providing request compatibility in a multicast system, said method comprising:

receiving, by a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router, requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

determining, by said switch, whether said traffic requests contain incompatible request types;

if incompatible request types exist, then separating said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type; and

sending requests of different types to said router from distinct addresses.

23. The device of claim 22, wherein said incompatible request types include a single-source request and an any-source request.

24. The device of claim 23, wherein said single-source request comprises an IGMP v3 request.

25. The device of claim 23, wherein said older any-source request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

26. The device of claim 22, wherein said incompatible request types include an include request and an exclude request.

27. The device of claim 22, wherein said act of sending requests of different types to said router from distinct addresses further comprises:

- creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and
- creating a second host identity located a second MAC address.

28. The device of claim 23, said method further comprising sending requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said a first MAC address, and sending requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC address.